Q1 British came to India as exploitative traders and they aimed to extract financial benefits from the country, Due to the Industrial revolution in the 19th century, India supplied the raw materials to the English Industries and became a market of English finished goods.

Q2 The Zamindari system was created, under which the Zamindars were burdened by hefty taxes and were forced to impose heavy taxes on the poor peasants. In case the former was unable to pay back any loan, his land would be transferred to the moneylender.

Q3 The annexation of Awadh, on grounds of misgovernment, was greatly resented. The Nawabs of Awadh had always been loyal to the British. The annexation was widely seen as a blatant act of back-stabbing by the British. It deeply hurt the sentiments of the Company’s sepoys because most of them came from Awadh. Moreover, even under the new regime, the people of Awadh got no relief from oppression.

Q4 The rumours of cartridges smeared with pig and cow fat spread like wildfire. As the Hindus consider the cow sacred and the Muslims do not eat pig’s meat, both these communities were enraged at such a blatant attempt to harm their religion. The incident, popularly known as the Greased Cartridges Incident, became the immediate cause of the revolt.